

Archaeological Conference



Sandby borg

New perspectives for Iron Age archaeology in the Baltic region

Västergård, Linnaeus University, Kalmar, Sweden

May 8-10, 2019



The Iron Age ringfort of Sandby borg on Öland, SE Sweden, has been subject to excavations since 2011, under the direction of Kalmar County Museum. Already from the beginning, it was clear that the site hosted traces of a brutal and violent event, and soon the term “massacre” was adopted as best describing what we were unearthing. During the years 2016-2018, the research project “Frozen in time: Stories of life and moments of death at Sandby borg” was conducted, by Kalmar County Museum in collaboration with Linnaeus University and Stockholm University. The project focused on the victims of the massacre and their life histories as they can be revealed by means of excavation, osteology, taphonomy, stable isotope analysis and aDNA analysis. The project has involved the full excavation of two houses in the ringfort, apart from the one already finished in 2015. From the c. 10% of the area thus excavated, human remains of c. 30 individuals have been recovered, alongside a wealth of animal remains, artefacts and household waste.

This conference aims to present the general results from the interdisciplinary Sandby borg project, putting it in perspective through various international and regional comparisons. The themes covered include not only the archaeological evidence and its analysis, but also theoretical issues of conflict, war and difficult heritage relating the site to contemporary issues of value, ethics, tourism and regional development.

The conference is organized by the Sandby borg project and hosted by Linnaeus University and Kalmar County Museum. The event will take place at the university and the venue N2007 Västergård, in the beautiful small town of Kalmar, situated by the coast in south-east Sweden with the neighboring island of Öland in sight a short distance to the east. Two full days of thematic sessions with presentations and discussions are followed by a full day excursion to Öland, with a visit at the site of Sandby borg as well as a whole range of other fascinating archaeological sites. The southern part of the island, including the site of Sandby borg, is listed a UNESCO World Heritage Site, “Agricultural landscape of southern Öland”.

List of speakers

Clara Alfsdotter, Bohusläns Museum, Sweden
Anna Bitner-Wróblewska, State Archaeological Museum, Warsaw, Poland
Torbjörn Brorsson, Ceramic Studies, Sweden
Kerstin Calleberg, Stockholm University, Sweden
Markus Eklund, Stockholm University, Sweden
Gunilla Eriksson, Stockholm University, Sweden
Jan-Henrik Fallgren, Uppsala University, Sweden
Paola Filippucci, University of Cambridge, UK
Josefin Franck Bican, National Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark
Jens Heimdahl, The Archaeologists, Stockholm, Sweden
Bertil Helgesson, emeritus, Sweden
Frands Herschend, Uppsala University, Sweden
Bettina Jungklaus, Berlin/Northeim, Germany
Carolina Jonsson Malm, Malmö University, Sweden
Anna Kjellström, Stockholm University, Sweden
Kerstin Lidén, Stockholm University, Sweden
Christian Meyer, OsteoARC, Germany
Ludvig Pappmehl-Dufay, Linnaeus University, Sweden
Xenia Pauli Jensen, Moesgard Museum, Aarhus, Denmark
Bodil Petersson, Linnaeus University, Sweden
Layla Renshaw, Kingston University, London, UK
Ricardo Rodriguez Varela, Stockholm University, Sweden
Christina Seehusen, Bornholm museum, Denmark
Thomas Terberger, Lower Saxony State Office for Cultural Heritage, Hannover, Germany
Helena Victor, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden
Per Widerström, The Gotland Museum, Sweden
Gustav Wollentz, Kiel University, Germany

Organizers:

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Gustav Wollentz, Kiel University, gwollentz@gshdl.uni-kiel.de

Info, reports and more: www.sandbyborg.se

Program

Wednesday 2019-05-08

Negotiating the Violent Past – Dealing with Warfare and Violence

Moderator: Gustav Wollentz

- 09.15. The archaeology at Sandby borg. Helena Victor & Ludvig Pappmehl-Dufay
09.45. How, when and for whom is Sandby borg a difficult heritage? Exploring memories, ideas and uses of an Iron Age massacre site. Gustav Wollentz, Carolina Jonsson Malm & Bodil Petersson
10.10. What is 'difficult' about 'difficult heritage'? Reflections from the Western Front. Paola Filippucci
10.30–10.50 Coffe break
10.50. Evidence, emotion and afterlives of exhumation: Projecting a forensic sensibility onto the crimes of the past. Layla Renshaw
11.15. The Tollense valley battle field site, NE Germany, and its implications on warfare 3300 years ago. Thomas Terberger
11.40. Neolithic massacres and mass graves: Thoughts on their bioarchaeological interpretation. Christian Meyer
12.05 Death in the 30 years' war – the mass grave of the battle of Wittstock and related finds from an osteo-anthropological perspective. Bettina Jungklaus
12.25–13.40. LUNCH

Stories of life and moments of death- Tracing the individuals in the past

Moderator: Anna Kjellström

- 13.40. Life, death and taphonomy of the individuals from Sandby borg. Clara Alfsson & Anna Kjellström
14.05. Diet and date – stable isotopes and reservoir effects at Sandby borg. Gunilla Eriksson, Markus Eklund & Kerstin Lidén
14.30–15.00. Coffe Break
15.00. Islander or immigrant? Strontium and sulphur isotope analysis of Sandby borg people. Kerstin Lidén, Kerstin Calleberg & Gunilla Eriksson
15.25. Preliminary archaeogenetic results from Sandby borg. Ricardo Rodriguez Varela
15.50. Straws of doom. The botanical evidence from Sandby borg. Jens Heimdahl
16.15–17.00. Discussion
19.00. Dinner at Restaurang Ångkvarnen, Kalmar County Museum

Thursday 2019-05-09

Understanding objects - contextualizing Iron Age material culture

Moderator: Helena Victor

09.20. The Migration Period material culture of Sandby borg. Helena Victor

09.45. Close and far away-perspectives on ancient monuments, material culture and Scania in the Late Iron Age. Bertil Helgesson

10.10. The Sandby borg pottery – a household inventory and traces of ritual practices. Torbjörn Brorsson

10.30–10.50. Coffe break

10.50. Understanding the construction and meaning of the hall in the Iron Age. Josefine Frank Bican

11.15. Öland 500 CE – the end of a narrative. Frands Herschend

11.40. After the massacre: evidence of later activities at Sandby borg. Ludvig Pappmehl-Dufay

12.00–13.20. LUNCH

New perspectives for Iron Age archaeology in the Baltic region

Moderator: Ludvig Pappmehl-Dufay

13.20. The Migration period on Bornholm. Christina Seehusen & Finn Ole Sonne Nielsen

13.45. Neighbours, counterparts, enemies? The south-eastern Baltic zone in 5th–6th c. Anna Bitner-Wróblewska

14.10. Cult, conflict and contacts – militarization and warfare in Scandinavia in the early Iron Age, 150 BC–400 AD. Xenia Pauli

14.30–15.00. Coffe break

15.00. The primrose path to Visby. Per Widerström

15.25. Farmland, hierarchies, lordship and forts – Öland AD 200–700. Jan-Henrik Fallgren

15.50 –17.00. Discussion

20.00. Mingle at Kalmar County Museum

Friday 2019-05-10

8:30-16.00. Excursion on Öland, visit to Eketorp, Sandby borg, Ismantorp and more.